Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, XG, SCUL

SUBJECT: CSCE: STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS IN BASKET III--ACCESS TO CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS (SUBCOMMITTEE K)

REF: (A) GENEVA A-360; (B) GENEVA 4509

- 1. ON NOVEMBER 22, SUBCOMMITTEE ON CULTURE "MENTALLY" REGISTERED FOLLOWING INTRODUCTORY SENTENCE TO CONTROVERSIAL WESTERN TEXT ON ACCESS TO CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS:
 BEGIN TEXT: (K/152/REV 1): "TO PROMOTE FULLER MUTUAL ACCESS BY ALL TO THE ACHIEVEMENTS-WORKS, EXPERIENCES AND PERFORMING ARTS IN THE VARIOUS FIELDS OF CULTURE OF THEIR COUNTRIES, AND TO THAT END TO MAKE THE BEST POSSIBLE EFFORTS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR COMPETENCE, MORE PARTICULARLY: END TEXT
- 2. COMMENT: ABOVE SENTENCE DEVELOPED BY NEUTRALS (AUSTRIA, FINNS, SWEDES, AND SWISS) DURING INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIETS, AND IS BASED ON FRENCH FORMULATION WHICH WAS UNSATISFACTORY TO NEUTRALS. WHILE NEUTRAL TEXT WELCOMED AS IMPROVEMENT BY EC-NINE, IT WAS OBTAINED AT PRICE OF TACITLY AGREEING TO WATERED-DOWN RUSSIAN LANGUAGE VERSION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(I.E. "BEST POSSIBLE EFFORTS" IN WESTERN-LANGUAGE

TEXTS IS RENDERED AS "POSSIBLE EFFORTS" IN RUSSIAN TEXT). EC-NINE ACCEPTED THIS CONCESSION TO SOVIETS BY NEUTRALS IN ORDER FACILITATE RENEWED FOCUS ON SPECIFIC ACCESS MEASURES, INCLUDING PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF LIBRARIES/READING ROOMS (REFS A AND B). THIS REGARD, AS ABOVE TEXT ONLY "MENTALLY" REGISTERED, SUBCOMMITTEE HAS OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE QUESTION OF LINGUISTIC DISCREPANCY AT TIME OF PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION OF ENTIRE ACCESS TEXT.

3. AT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING, SWEDISH DELEGATE ALSO MADE FOLLOWING ORAL INTERPRETATION FOR THE RECORD:.."WE UNDERSTAND "MUTUAL ACCESS" (INT TEXT) TO MEAN, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT SWEDEN UNDERTAKES TO PROMOTE A FULLER ACCESS BY ALL TO THE CULTURE OF EACH OF THE OTHER PARTICIPATING STATES AND THAT THEY IN TURN UNDERTAKE TO PROMOTE A FULLER ACCESS BY ALL TO THE CULTURE OF OUR COUNTRY. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, UNDERSTAND THE TEXT IN SUCH A WAY THAT THIS ACCESS WOULD REQUIRE ANY FURTHER FORMAL AGREEMENTS NOR THAT IT SHOULD TAKE PLACE ON THE BASIS OF A QUANTITATIVE RECIPROCITY". SWISS AND CANADIAN DELS SUPPORTED THIS STATEMENT. ABRAMS

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